Presenter: Cindy Robertson
Topic Title/Area: Aquifer recharge/environmental impacts and benefits
Organization: Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25
City: Boise **ST:** ID **Zip:** 83707
Phone: (208) 287-2715
FAX: (208) 334-2114
Email: crobertson@idfg.state.id.us

Biographical Sketch

Cindy Robertson earned a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University in 1980 and a M.S. in Fisheries Resource Management from the University of Idaho in 1987. She has worked for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game since 1985 as a fishery biologist. Her work focuses on the impacts of water quality, water quantity, and riparian habitat management on fish and wildlife resources.

Fish and Wildlife Concerns from Implementation of Large-scale Managed Recharge on Idaho's Eastern Snake River Plain

Cindy Robertson, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; David Blew, Idaho Department of Water Resources

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) does not oppose the concept of managed recharge per se. IDFG has and will continue to work cooperatively with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) to identify and evaluate potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources resulting from implementation of large-scale managed recharge on the Eastern Snake River Plain. Some, but not all, of IDFG concerns include mimicking (as closely as possible) natural flow patterns in the Snake River; providing adequate flows for sturgeon spawning and rearing in the Snake River below Bliss; providing adequate winter flow in the South Fork Snake River below Palisades Dam; and wintertime pool levels in American Falls Reservoir. Currently, the information necessary to assess the specific impacts to fish and wildlife from managed recharge is limited. The range of potential flows to be diverted and timing of those diversions is not specifically known. Biological data on the effects of various flows on fish populations and habitats on a seasonal basis is limited. The effects of recharge on terrestrial habitats and wildlife cannot be assessed until specific recharge projects are proposed that identify the site, timing of inundation, and amount of land flooded. IDFG will continue to work jointly with IDWR to develop flow regimes that attempt to minimize impacts and hopefully provide benefits to fish and wildlife resources.